

### Comets and Comets.

Comets are a species of vagrant, desultory, wandering, dissipated planets, with long manes and tails—haughty fellows, as their name implies—very gassy, also; indeed, some assert that they are all gas, like unto ranting politicians, or political parsons—demagogues on an extensive scale, plausible, but by no means strongly, eccentric in their orbits, without weight of character, or gravity of deportment, not at all related to the "solid men" of any known and established world—poor fellows, with no satellites or synchroscopic secondary globes; sometimes going so near to the sun as to endanger their heads, and then running off into space beyond sight or calculation—members of the solar system, with private notions of their own which they keep to themselves.—Such are comets.

Now, for our own part, we have not even a speaking acquaintance with comets; we have always treated them with a respect the most distant—never coming within a few millions of miles of them; we have carefully avoided any reflections upon their private characters, and we therefore feel the greatest surprise that any comet should take it into its head or tail, as the case may be, to run a muck against this quiet, unassuming old earth of ours. We cannot see why any comet should enter into a conspiracy with Dr. Cummings, of London, to pitch into us on the 13th of next June. We cannot see what grudge any comet can have against the globe that we inhabit, that it should be seized with an insane desire to butt its head against her terrestrial stomach and midriff. We have never heard of any hard words having passed between the parties, and we take it especially hard, that the reverend Dr. should aid and abet, instigate and excite the comet unknown, to the commission of the threatened assault and battery. Why should the Doctor take sides with the comet? What is he to gain by deserting the cause of the earth, and turning second—bottle-holder, trainer, as it were, to the long-tailed visitant? What can have made the man so ferocious? To be sure, he turned sort of Know Nothing a couple of years ago, and wrote a long letter in which he predicted that the Pope and the wild Irish would play the deuce generally, unless somebody cut off their coats-tails and great toes, but surely the idea of mounting astride of a comet's tail, and knocking us all to smash, is rather a desperate expedient to be resorted to for the prevention of the other dreaded consummation.

Cannot something be done with the comet, or its friend, the Dr.? Is there no chance for our obtaining a short respite? Does nobody know Cummings, and will nobody beg him to say a word or two in our favor? It is a hard case, for unfortunately the world is not prepared to wind up—we should all like to square up and pay up before winding up, but nobody can do so between now and the 13th of next month. It can't be done.

There is one little, trembling hope left. The comet's head is said to be very soft, and the Dr.'s is much softer than his heart. They may find old mother earth too hard for them. This world of ours is a right hard customer, as many an ambitious youth has had reason to acknowledge. The very atmosphere of the earth is said to be much harder than the head of the comet—much more solid, and the light-headed youngster may find out that it has caught a tartar.—Like unto a man missing his lick and striking his fist against a brick wall, it may bark the knuckles of its head—it may scalp itself, it may dislocate its tail, it may hurt its own feelings, it may cripple itself generally, and be made to feel cheap, torn up in its mind, a foolish, backed down and discomfited sucking comet, and there will be no sympathy for it. Think of that, Dr. Cummings, and take care of your Quixotic protegee.

But there is a horrible suspicion behind. The comet is said to be composed of very attenuated gases. The atmosphere of the earth is also composed of gases. Gases have a chemical affinity for each other, and who knows what "fusion" may take place! Our atmosphere, instead of defending us, may like Louis Philippe's troops, and "fraternize" with the revolutionary outside party, and out of that fusion an inflammable gas may arise that will go off like a flash on coming in contact with anything like fire. Wouldn't it be advisable to put out all the fires, extinguish the lights, eat cold victuals, go to bed at dark, and lock up the loco-foco matches for a couple of weeks before and after the visit of the comet—that is, if we survive so long.

But we are threatened in another and totally different way. Some folks say that the comet is the occasion of the late spring. That, instead of burning up it is going to freeze us out. Its tail is composed of volatile ether, and will congeal even drummond lights and other evidences of combustion, causing them to stand stiff as pokers, which is frightful to think of. Some Russian explorers once started overland to the North pole. In the course of their peregrinations, they made a fire one evening, when suddenly the thermometer fell from the mild point of 42 degrees below zero, until presently it became severely cold and a phenomenon was presented—a very strange one at that. The blaze stood right straight in its tracks without flickering or wavering.—They touched it with their hands and it was frozen hard, some of them broke off pieces and essayed to eat it. It tasted pretty well, with a sort of cayenne-peppery flavour. Luckily they took the hint in time and merely tasted it. Some put pieces in their pockets by way of curiosity, and forgot it for some time until it was brought to their minds in a rather unpleasant way. One night they had all gone asleep—in the weather moderated—the chunks of solid flame in their pockets thawed out and set fire to their garments, coming near consuming the bodies and bones, overcoats and breeches of eleven sleeping Russians.

Such are the terrible prospects before us, such are the fates with which we are threatened by Dr. Cummings and his private and personal comet. We have felt about it for some time, and had intended to have given both of them a piece of our mind, but have been prevented from devoting to it the proper attention by the mere sublimity of topics of public lands, distributions, deposits, congressional elections and so forth. But what is the use of distributing the public lands or of not distributing the public lands if they are all to be used up—what's the use of caring who ought to be, or who will be elected in August, which will be six weeks after the end of the world. The Capitol will be destroyed and the seats burned up.

But let us say one thing—the election for Commissioners of Navigation will come on Monday next, and if we must die, let us die gloriously. Let us elect the Democratic ticket in May and fight the comet in June. The Democracy can whip all the comets that Dr. Cummings owns. Yea, verily.

Daily Journal, 2d inst.

Dr. the late Rutherford Democrat says, that a gentleman named Wilson, William J. Wilson, of Forsk of Pigeon, in Haywood County, is out for Congress—the 8th district, in opposition to Mr. Cline. We do not know upon what ground Mr. Wilson stands. Mr. Cline, we presume, be re-elected without difficulty.

### The Next Congressional Elections in this State.

Our readers, we presume, are all aware that elections will be held this year for eight members of Congress to represent the eight districts into which the State of North Carolina is laid off. The election day will be the first Thursday in August next.

In the last Congress, the State was represented by five Democrats and three Know Nothings, the second, third, fourth, seventh and eighth districts sending Democrats; the first, fifth and sixth districts sending Know Nothings. The Democrats from this State, in the last Congress, were Messrs. Ruffin, Winslow, Bunch, Craig and Cline; the Know Nothings, Messrs. Paine, Reade and Puryear. Of the Democrats, all are candidates for re-election, with a strong assurance of success. Of the Know Nothings two, Messrs. Paine and Reade, decline to run, and one, Mr. Puryear, is again in the field as the nominee of the Know Nothing party of the sixth district; he is opposed by Mr. Seales, of Rockingham, who ran him very close two years ago, since which time the Democrats have carried the district for President, thus affording us the best reasons for entertaining a confident expectation that Mr. Seales will be successful in his canvass this summer. A gentleman named Smith, has been nominated as the Know Nothing candidate in the first district. We have heard a report somehow, that Dr. Shaw, who formerly represented that district with so much ability, had been, or would be, nominated by the Democrats. We do not know how this may be, but think it very probable. The Democrats carried that district last year, and it is in their power to do so this. The fifth district may, we presume, be regarded as certain for the Know Nothings, should no unforeseen and unexpected contingency arise.

Now, the case stands this way. To secure a clear majority in the next House of Representatives, the Democrats must make gains and can afford to sustain no losses. They must strive after the first and guard against the second, and this can only be done by harmony, concert of action—the waiver of all personal or sectional feelings, that might interfere with the organization of the party. This brings us to our own district and the position of things therein.

Mr. Winlow, after serving one term in Congress, announces himself as a candidate for re-election, subject to the action of a Democratic Convention, should the party deem it expedient to hold one. Thus far, no movement whatever, has been made in that direction in any of the counties of the district, and from appearances, we are led to believe that no such movement will be made. Here, in New Hanover, for obvious reasons already stated, no movement has been made. The incumbent is a citizen of the upper end of the district—of Cumberland county—and motives of delicacy alone would be sufficient to restrain New Hanover from the initiative in any step calculated even to appear like distrust or opposition; and knowing this, we regret to have noticed some communications in the columns of our contemporary of the Fayetteville Carolinian, indicating on the part of their writers, a total misapprehension of the position occupied by this county and some other counties down here, Duplin, certainly. A correspondent, writing in a late Carolinian over the signature of "Robeson," says, if Wilmington has a man, or Duplin has a man who claims they wish to urge, etc., then seeming to suppose that there are aspirants here or in Duplin, desirous of pre-eminence, or being pressed. Duplin and New Hanover, we are proud to say, have many good and true Democrats within their borders, whom we would support with pleasure. The same remark will apply to any of the other counties of the district. There are good and true men, and good Democrats in them all. But we have reason to know that there is no man in New Hanover that seeks any nomination or candidacy at this time; neither is there in Duplin, nor do we think there is any Democrat in the district who would be a candidate unless brought out by a convention. This, of course, is only our opinion.

What, then, is the state of the case, and what are we to do? Evidently to keep together in harmony, and secure our unity and strength in the district. This is our first duty as Democrats, a duty which takes precedence of all merely personal preferences or prejudices, or local feelings; it is a duty which the Democracy of this district will fulfil. The unity and harmony of the many thousands of good and true Democrats in the old Cape Fear district is not to be lightly risked.

That a difference of opinion exists in regard to the policy of a vote given by Mr. Winlow during the closing days of the last Congress, is, we believe, generally known. That the great majority of the Democrats of the District would have preferred that that vote had not been given, we feel assured. But in so voting, Mr. Winlow did no more than act with his colleagues, and in the course pursued by the delegation—a mistaken course, as we must think—we still feel assured that an abnegation of principle was meant by our Democratic representatives in Congress. They yielded to a supposed necessity, and went for a measure which might not be, in theory, without some justification, though, in practice, it has been found totally and irreconcilably at variance with Democratic policy; still, the difficulty being at first blush only a practical one, and yielding being from supposed considerations of practical necessity, while we have felt in duty bound to dissent from the vote, we have not felt called upon to make an issue against the individuals, neither do we feel called upon to do so now.

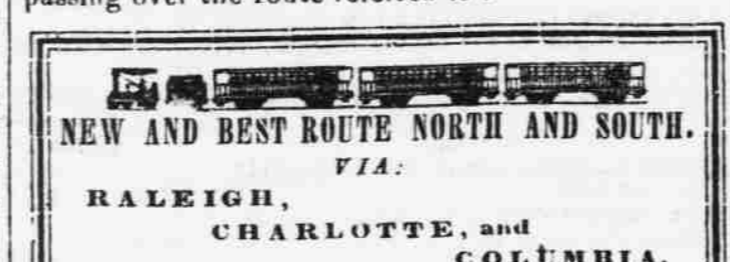
We look upon the vote as a grave mistake, a serious error of judgment, although, no doubt, done from pure motives and with no idea of straying off from principle. As Democratic editors, impressed with the gravity and serious character of the mistake made, we could not suffer it to pass without recording our dissent. We are all liable to errors, and there fore all bound to make allowances for the errors of others, but we are not bound to adopt these errors as our own, which would have been our case had we refrained from a full expression of our opinion in this instance, for, situated as we are, silence would have been justly construed into assent and approval.

We think we may say with truth, that we have ever yielded a cheerful assent to the wishes, while we have sought to promote the harmony of the party in the district,—not merely seeking to forestall nor retard the expression of such wishes; nor to allow private grudge or factious feelings to enter into, or influence our conduct as Editors. At this time we think it is very essential that there should be no Democratic candidate in the field in any district in the State. If we might make a suggestion, we would express our opinion that usage would seem to say, that where the Democratic incumbent announces himself a candidate for re-election, subject to a convention, and no convention is held, then it amounts to a tacit recognition of his candidacy by the party, as a party candidate. Let us have no division; if there is any desire for a convention, all right; if it is deemed best not to have a convention, all right, too; but no two Democratic candidates; if there be any opposing preferences, a convention is the place, and not the polls.

These remarks will, of course, apply in some measure to other districts as well as this. We notice that the Northern Express and some other opposition organs, are trying to make some capital against Col. Ruffin and other gentlemen, and to press the remarks of the Journal into their service. Now, the remarks

may have thought, and does still think, that in voting for Mr. Campbell's bill, our representatives yielded too much to a supposed necessity, but surely that is no justification for attack by a party that claims this vote as a concession to it. Surely the Northern Express, if sincere in its professions and avowals, ought rather to moderate its opposition to Mr. Ruffin than to increase it, and make it more virulent. The fact is that it has no idea that Mr. Ruffin intends to desert his party on this question of distribution, otherwise, it would not be pitching into him so severely.

We have been shown the following card, which we understand has been stuck upon trunks passing over the route referred to:



That this is a new route, or at least newer than the lower or sea-board route, via Wilmington, no one denies, but that it is the best route, is an assertion from which we most positively dissent.

The distance from Weldon to Kingsville, via Raleigh, Charlotte and Columbia, is 75 miles greater than by the old mail route, via Wilmington, and passengers going by the upper route arrive at Kingsville 12 hours later than those going by the Wilmington route, making the difference of a train and a connection. The same remark will apply with respect to passengers going North from Kingsville to Weldon. It should be understood that Kingsville is the Southern and Weldon the Northern point of divergence between the upper and lower routes. If the roads on the lower route are not as smooth and pleasant and the accommodations generally at least as good on the lower as on the upper route, we have yet to know it. We don't think our friends of the upper lines are quite candid in sticking this card upon trunks, but are naturally opposed to that success built up particularly at the expense of our lines, especially when the facts of the case do not sustain their electrifying promises or professions. However, we know they are mistaken and we take pleasure in setting them right—no doubt they will take pleasure in being set right.

Spring appears to be with us at last, and the showers of April are making their appearance in May, warm and genial, and the little buds and blossoms are out blooming. We would indulge in some quite romantic reflections if we had time, or if we felt like it—but first, our associate is gone; and secondly, we feel like the mischief, if not worse; and would be sick, if we could afford it. Every sentence we write is dragged out by a sort of physical compulsion, and is not at all amusing to us. We don't think it will be amusing to anybody else. We have been wishing for warmer weather, and now that it has come, we see everything yellow, and feel jaundiced. Our old friend, the China tree at the corner, is coming out. At the very ends of his limbs, on his fingers and toes, and as yet, the leaves are making their appearance in small tufts. He will soon be out in all his glory, looking magnificent, and smelling prodigiously scrumptious.

Drinks at Fayetteville.—The Wilmington Light Infantry which left here on Wednesday, arrived at Fayetteville in good time and in prime order, and were entertained gloriously by their Fayetteville hosts. We learn from a private source, that they had a fine time of it, and are more than pleased—they are delighted. The company with the band, also in uniform numbers 1 not far from sixty men, and were much admired.

Mr. D. G. White of the Wilmington Light Infantry, won the Goblet shot for at Fayetteville, making the three best shots—average 23 inches. Capt. W. L. DeRosier of the same company, came next, we believe.

The company leave to day for Raleigh, where they will also enjoy themselves no doubt, there only being one fear—that the people of the City of Oaks will kill them with kindness.—Daily Journal, 2d inst.

May Day.—We understand that this is the first of May, and we are further confirmed in that understanding by seeing the military turn-out for target practice, as is the custom. The companies, to wit: the German Volunteers and the Rifle Cadets, look well, very well, and show fuller ranks than they have been showing for some time past, although still not so full as we would like to see. There is one thing puzzles us, and that is, where the flowers came from that form the wreaths around the targets.

It is only a matter of understanding, and not of the feelings, that this is May Day. It don't look like it, and it don't feel like it. April showers bring forth May flowers, or used to; but we see nothing but May dust—that is all the flower about.

Several of the schools will, we believe, have their graceful May festivals, and fair little queens and maids of honor, and all that sort of thing, and no doubt present gay and happy scenes in spite of the weather.—Daily Journal, 1st inst.

Have we acknowledged the receipt of Harper for May?—We think not, and therefore do so now. Mr. Whitaker has laid it on our table. It is as usual, readable.

We have also from the publishers, the old Knickerbocker for May, good and glorious. It makes one feel better to read it. Mr. J. H. Rothwell is agent for it. It is also for sale at the bookstore.

The publishers have also sent us "Household Words," which is one of our favorite publications.—We were somewhat surprised a short time since to find that Mr. Whitaker had ceased keeping it for sale, of course he was right in doing so, since the sale did not justify him in ordering copies of it.—But it is really so pleasant, and generally so sensible a publication that we should have looked for a larger sale.

SHOOTING HERE YESTERDAY.—We understand that the Gold Star shot for by the officers of the German Volunteers was won by Capt. H. Vonglahn, Gold Medal shot for by private, won by D. Haehagen, \$10 gold piece, won by W. Diensbach. Purse of \$5 shot for by company, won by C. H. Cornelison.

The White Plume, tipped with red, shot for by the company of Rifle Cadets was won by 3rd Sergeant Joshua T. James, who made the best average on three shots. The hat presented by officers was won by 3rd Lieut. J. J. McGrath who made the best single shot.

The day was windy and the shooting not as good as usual, on that account.—Daily Journal, 2d inst.

County Court Clerk.—It will be perceived that Mr. Samuel R. Bunting has announced himself as a candidate for re-election, as Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, at the election to be held on the 8th of August next. We dare say his claims will be favorably considered by the people. He is mild and courteous to all with whom he has intercourse; of strict integrity; scrupulously exact in the discharge of his duties, and industrious and to be found at his post in all the hours of business. We guess we will vote for him.

Commercial.—Mr. Bunting is everything that the Commercial says he is. There are few, if there be any more popular officers in the State.

Election To-Day.—The election for Commissioners of Navigation is progressing very quietly; at 12 o'clock there were somewhere about 260 votes polled. We would inform the Fayetteville Observer that we are fighting our peaceful battle in peace and harmony. We have not seen a symptom of angry feeling, and we trust and believe, that no such thing will be exhibited in any way.

The Democratic ticket can be elected. It ought to be elected, and it will be elected, if Democrats only do their duty. It is for them, this afternoon, to say how the thing will go. They have the majority. If having the power to elect their men they don't do it, they will only have themselves to blame, and ought to be ashamed of themselves.

RUSSELL'S MAGAZINE.—The May number has been laid on our table. Upon the whole, we think it better than that for April. It is more popular, combines more readability, with an equally high order of analytic ability, and so far as we can judge, is all that can be asked for or required by the South. Abler and sounder than its Northern competitors, it is equally, and more rationally amusing. We commend it cordially to our readers.

Southern Railroad Association.—This Association, composed of all the Presidents and Superintendents of the Southern Railroads, will hold its regular annual convention at Augusta, Ga., on the 21st, 22d and 23d days of May, as fixed by the President of the last convention.

It is understood that a proposition will be submitted by the Postmaster General to expedite the mails 12 hours between Montgomery and Washington city.

The Postmaster general has concluded a contract with the Panama R. R. Co., for the transmission of the mail across the isthmus at the rate of \$100,000 per annum.

One Week Later from Europe.—Arrival of the Africa.

NEW YORK, May 1.—The Cunard steamer Africa, with Liverpool dates of the 18th ult., has arrived. The steamer City of Baltimore arrived out on the 14th, and the Arago on the 18th.

Queen Victoria has given birth to another daughter, and the English journals are filled with rejoicings over her safe accouchement. Politics are quiet in England.

It is reported that the Emperor Napoleon was going to Algeria. There are continued rumors of conspiracies in France. The republicans propose running Carnot, Cavaignac, and others for the legislature.

There are rumors that the four powers had become weary with the trifling about Neuchatel, and are about to impose terms on Prussia and Switzerland. It is reaffirmed that France and England are mediating the Spanish-Mexican quarrel. It is announced that Prussia will mediate between the western powers and Naples.

Sardinia proposes to resume negotiations with Rome. A treaty has been signed a concordat with Rome, and the demand of Turkey on Persia for the restitution of territory has been referred to France and England.

The Anglo-Persian treaty is not concluded.

It is reported that the Circassians have gained another victory over the Russians.

Portugal is preparing an expedition against Madagascar.

Austria is negotiating a treaty with Persia similar to that concluded with the United States.

PARIS, April 16.—The co-operation of the French government in furtherance of the English operations in China will be the heartiest kind. The Catholic Church, for the protection of numerous missionaries there, has made urgent representations to the Emperor to take an active part in the war.

It is said that Lord Elgin will demand of the Cabinet of Pekin the renewal of former treaties, with the following amplifications of some of their provisions: As regards commerce, the number of ports open to Europeans is to be nine, instead of five; and diplomatic missions are to be established at Pekin on the same footing as those at Russia.

As regards defence and defence, the English government demands the right of establishing military posts wherever they have consuls; and that vessels of war may enter any port whatever.

LONDON, Sunday.—Her Majesty's health is favorable, and the infant is well.

The Spanish ambassador at Paris has had an interview with Count Walewski and Lord Cowley on Mexican affairs. In the event of the failure of pacific negotiations, the Spanish government will address a note to the other power, setting forth "our moderation," and declaring that, "in the event of hostilities, the cabinet of Madrid is not responsible for the consequences."

Riot on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—BALTIMORE, May 1.—The strike upon the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad resulted in a very serious riot this afternoon. Four freight trains started out in charge of armed guard, in obedience to the proclamation of the government to disperse the rioters. The trains were mobbed near Ellicott's Mill by the rioters, and some thirty muskets were fired from the cars. Two of the rioters were wounded. One of the trains got through, but the others were uncoupled by the rioters, and were compelled to return to the city.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN SANDUSKY.—SANDUSKY, April 30th.—An extensive fire, which consumed nearly half a square, broke out at an early hour this morning, and raged for two hours before it was checked. Several dwellings, with the extensive buildings of the Sandusky Machine Company, and the contents, were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$100,000. The insurance is very small.

THE VALUE OF IRON.—The British Quarterly Review gives the following curious and instructive calculation. A bar of iron, worth one pound sterling, is worth when worked into—

Horse shoes.....£2 10s.  
Table knives.....30  
Needles.....71  
Pens and pencils.....657  
Buttons and buckles.....897  
Springs of watches.....50,000  
A piece of cast iron worth one pound sterling is worth when converted into—  
Machinery.....£4  
Ornamental works.....45  
Buttons and Berlin works.....600  
Nail chains.....1,386  
Shirt buttons.....5,890  
Thirty-one pounds of iron have been made into wire upwards of 111 miles in length.

MINNEAPOLIS.—We find in the St. Paul papers the following proclamation from Gov. Gorman: "An extraordinary emergency having arisen in the affairs of the Territory of Minnesota, requiring an extra session of the legislature for the purpose of providing by law for holding courts, and for enacting such laws as may be deemed necessary to enable the people to form a State constitution, preparatory to being admitted into the Union as a State; also, for the purpose of disposing of the grant of lands made by the Congress of the United States at its last session, to aid the Territory of Minnesota in constructing certain designated railroads therein. The members of the council and house of representatives are therefore required to meet at St. Paul, on Monday, the 27th of April, 1857, and take into consideration the objects above specified."

TUNNELING NEW JERSEY.—A correspondent of the New York News, who is evidently grieved at certain "verils of the State," suggests the idea of tunneling New Jersey from the Hudson to the Delaware, and thus save the \$1 a mile imposed upon travelers crossing her territory. Another suggestion is, that the Jersey does be canalized as the Danube does—each State of the Union to pay at once their respective proportion of the expense for "keeping and supporting" gates at the entrance of her territory.

The Pittsfield (Mass.) Eagle of April 17th says that workmen have been engaged for the past five months in boring an artesian well for the use of the paper-mill of the Hon. Thomas Colt, in the eastern part of that town. After boring to the depth of two hundred and fourteen feet through solid rock, at great expense, water was struck on Tuesday, and gushed up at the rate of two hundred gallons a minute.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—Our readers will remember the various accounts which, now, for a long time, have been coming to us of extensive importations of slaves from Africa into Cuba.

They will recollect that the telegraph but a few days ago reported the capture of a slave boat bound for that island, and the discovery and pursuit of her.

These things will prepare the way for the following from the Savannah Republican of Thursday last: "Notwithstanding the diligent exertions of the principal nations of Christendom to put down this traffic, there are indications that it has largely increased during the past few years, and bids fair to do so in a still greater ratio, for a time to come. The great centre of the trade is Cuba, where, we are reliably informed, there is a large and thoroughly organized company, with a heavy capital, devoted to the business. During the past few weeks the following vessels have been purchased at the prices named, by houses in Havana, to be added, it is generally believed, to the African line of slave-traders, which is said to number at this time one hundred and fifty sail."

The schooner Tallulah, of New Orleans, for \$7300. A schooner—name unknown—of Wilmington, N. C., for \$5400.

Schooner Abbott Devereaux, of Savannah, for \$6500.

Brig R. B. Lawton, of Newport, R. I., trading between Savannah and the Cuban ports, for \$9500.

Barque Minnetoka, 324 tons, of New York, for \$13,500.

Schooner Joseph H. Records, well known from her previous engagement in the trade, of Newport, R. I., for \$6500.

To these may be added the brig Putnam and barque Clara B. Williams, recently purchased by a commercial house in Havana.

We have received this information from a source which we consider entirely reliable, and it will astonish some people who have been accustomed to believe that the importation of a cargo of slaves from the coast of Africa is a rare occurrence.

Interesting facts about the sub-Atlantic Telegraph.

The core or conductor of the great Atlantic cable is composed of seven copper wires wound together. The cable will be two thousand five hundred miles in length, the surplus over the actual distance being traversed being considered necessary, in case of emergency, to make up for the inequalities in the bed of the ocean and the variations that may be caused by the winds and currents. The protecting wires are made into strands, each composed of seven of the best charcoal iron wires. The aggregate length of the smaller wires required in the manufacture of one mile of the cable is one hundred and twenty-six miles, and the whole cable will require three hundred and fifteen thousand miles of this wire.

The flexibility of it is so great that it can be made as manageable as a small rope, and it is capable of being tied around the arm without injury. Its weight is but 1,800 pounds to the mile, and its strength such that it will bear in water over six miles of its own length if suspended vertically. Some doubting being entertained as to its sinking to the bottom, it is enough to know that it is heavier than those shells which have been taken up from the bed of the ocean by Commander Berrymann, while engaged in sounding along the line of the telegraph plateau.

It has been asserted, too, that the strands of slender iron wire by which it is protected will suffer corrosion or decomposition in a short time after their submersion, but it is known that the material of which they consist will enter into chemical union with the soft mud in which the cable is imbedded, and will thus form a concrete mass of calcareous or silicious substance affording the very best possible protection.

As the time selected for the laying of the cable will be at that period when the days are longest, there will be comparatively little night to cause interruption to the work. The whole operation will not take more than eight days in its completion. On approaching the land at each end a much thicker cable will be used, and of sufficient strength to render it less liable to accident from the pulling of anchors or the effects of the currents. As a proof of the durability of such a cable we may here state that we saw a specimen of that which connects Dover and Calais, and which after a submersion of six years was as perfect as when first put down. Accidents from the grounding of icebergs at the Newfoundland terminus will be rendered impossible by the laying and hanging of the cable in a harbor perfectly land-locked in which no iceberg can enter, and where the water varies in depth from two hundred to two hundred and fifty fathoms.

A SHIP'S CREW STARVED TO DEATH.—The following is an extract of a letter received at Lloyd's, relative to the wreck of an English ship on the coast of Norway. It is dated—

"STAVANGER, March 14.—A pilot on the 2d inst. boarded a vessel about eight miles from the land, off Kinn, near Stavanger, dismasted and waterlogged. Found in the fore-cabin the bodies of six men, which he brought with him on shore, and another body was found between the cargo in the hold, which he could not succeed in landing. On one of the bodies was found an English prayer-book, in which was written 'Josef B. Bell, Hull, 1840,' and on another a double edged silver pocket watch, on which the name of 'J. Buxton' was engraved. A certificate found on board the vessel to be the Holligate, from Narva for Gainsborough, with a cargo of deer, &c. The vessel was found to be without provisions; the crew were therefore supposed to have died from starvation, and especially as one of the bodies appeared to bear marks of having been attacked by the others to satisfy their hunger. Some of the bodies had evidently been dead some time, others only a few days.

The most remarkable circumstance connected with this wreck is, that the crew could have been starved to death on a voyage from Narva to Gainsborough, as even admitting that they ran short of provisions, or that these were spoiled on the vessel, still the crew must still have existed four or five days, and during that period, on a track so frequented as the North Sea, it appears strange that they fell in with no vessel of any kind."

A DREADFUL SLAUGHTER AMONG THE CAFFRES.—One of the London papers contains an account of a terrible slaughter among the Caffres, in which no less than thirty thousand human beings perished. These disturbances were caused by a contest between Keichwaya and Umbulazi, two sons of the paramount chief Panda. On the 22d December, the latter was defeated with immense slaughter. The victorious Keichwaya, a lad of nineteen, after the battle, divided his army into three sections, and with these, he entered the country in all directions, putting to death not only his enemies but all neutral or doubtful subjects who came in his way. He, however, kept clear of Panda, who by the latest intelligence, was raising an army in defence of his throne. It is said that men, women and children were all alike put to death. Umbulazi was put to death with the utmost barbarity, having been skinned alive.

THE NORTHERN METHODISTS ON SLAVERY.—The Methodist Conference of Eastern New York, on Saturday adopted the majority report of the Committee on Slavery, which is as follows: Resolved, First, That we regard slavery as a great natural and social evil, a violation of the natural rights of man, and opposed to the spirit and progress of the Christian religion.

Resolved, Secondly, That we will use what influence we possess to prevent its extension into regions and communities in which it does not at present exist, and will use all means that may with propriety be used by Christian ministers to effect its extirpation from the world.

HOOPS.—The following parody of one of Lord Byron's "Child Harold" stanzas is the best thing we have seen on the "vexed question" that now for some time has been made the subject of excessive comment.

Roll on, ye monstrous whalebone hoops—roll on! Ten thousands squibs are launched at you in vain. Man marks the world in his restless course, But cannot touch the hoops; they laugh to scorn Jokes, punsters, clergymen, the press, and all. And when they die at last—as die they must—'Twill be because they've gone the appointed round.

COL. FORNEY.—We understand that Col. Forney, who, it has been stated, was lying very ill in Philadelphia, a few days since, has been for some time rather seriously indisposed, but has recovered sufficiently to travel, and is now in Washington, convalescing.

COL. FORNEY.—It is stated that Col. Forney has purchased one-fourth of the Pennsylvania, published in Philadelphia, and will assume the editorial control of its columns on or about the first of May.

### From Yeagher's Irish News.

At the recent elections no great national question was at issue. There was no rallying cry in the name of Ireland, or in the name of freedom, or even that "splendid phantom," as Richard Lalor Sheil termed "Repeal," was not alluded to on any hustings. It is no longer a false sign in the heavens, to which the political idolaters of the day paid homage. It has gone below the horizon—it sank in darkness, ignominy and defeat. It is well, then, that no one dared in the late contests to delude the people with the shibboleth of such a spurious nationality. If they cannot obtain the substance, let them not be tantalized and insulted by the shadow. It never was worth one head on the block, nor one immolation on the floor of the House. Indeed, there is not one tear measure introduced in which we, on this side of the Atlantic, looking back on the old land with love, sorrow and indignation, could take an enthusiastic interest.

All the duties the electors are called upon to discharge, is to manifest, by the choice of very questionable Representatives, their opposition to the weak assaults annually made in the House of Commons upon the "Maynooth Grant," by a clique of Exeter Hall bigots; to obtain relief for a few corporate towns; to vote money for the relief of paupers, called "Ministers' Money," or for the relief of Protestant Catholic communities for the benefit of the Protestant clergy; to support a Tenant-right bill, which confers but few rights on the tenant; and, finally, to give to the ministry an "independent opposition," which, in the pledge of a candidate, means the acceptance of the first good place that offers.

These being the principal questions upon which the country was arrayed into as many camps as there were candidates, the electors are not called upon to make such sacrifices as in those days when the emancipation of religion and the repeal of enactments which struck at the root of civil liberty were the stakes played for. An honest man, with national feelings, and prepared to promote upon every occasion the material interests of his constituents, should be selected without regard to any factions or party cry which might have been raised. There were such men as in the late contests, but many more who were influenced solely by blind nationality.

In Dublin, John Reynolds, the brawling and audacious demagogue, who has been thrusting his foul presence for the last seven years upon every vacant constituency in the county, went before the electors. That city had once the disgrace of his accidental representation. Such a misfortune is not likely to recur to him. The obsequious Catholic members who abandoned their party and supported the Whigs under the Russell administration, are likely to have met a successful opposition.

Sir Thomas Redington, who, with the instincts of a pickpocket, rifled Smith O'Brien's carpet-bag, will be defeated in Galway, for the Archbishop of Tuam promptly repudiated him. Lord Dunkellen, Anthony O'Flaherty, and P. Blake, Q. C., are candidates for the city of Galway, which has been the scene of more severe contests, resulting in more duels, than any other borough in Ireland. Sir John P. Dunne, and the Martins, Ballinacorney, who the great rival electing families of Galway, in the good old days, when cocked hats and small swords completed the costume of the gentlemen; and never did a Daly or a Martin encounter each other in the streets of Galway without swords